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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

New claims 64-66 are added. Claims 55-58 are canceled and new claims 67-70 are added in their place. Accordingly, claims 54 and 59-70 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 54 and 59 to 63 based on Ohwa et al. (referred to herein as "Ohwa") in view of Imai et al. (referred to herein as "Imai").

As stated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Ohwa "is silent about a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to catch a non-card obstruction, maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion." The Examiner then refers to Imai, which shows a space (a recessed area).

However, neither Ohwa or Imai, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests "a sweeping arm including a hook portion", i.e. a sweeping arm with an integral hook portion as part of the sweeping arm. Furthermore, as recited in claim 54, the hook portion is configured to "catch a non-card obstruction". The hook portion is also configured to "maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area". The hook portion is also configured to "drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion".

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a "sweeping arm including a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion". Thus, claim 54 patentably distinguishes over the references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 59 depends from claim 54 and is allowable for the reasons claim 54 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 59 further recites a resilient bias for biasing the hook portion so that the hook portion remains in contact with a card when the

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hook portion is deflected by the card. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 59 in combination with the structure recited in claim 54. Thus, claim 59 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 60 recites a self-service terminal comprising a fascia defining a card entry/exit slot, and a motorized card reader module in registration with the card entry/exit slot and including (i) a throat portion for receiving cards, (ii) a housing portion for containing a card read head, (iii) a shutter arm movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion, and (iv) a sweeping arm movable from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion. The sweeping arm includes a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a sweeping arm including a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of a throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion. Thus, claim 60 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 61 depends from claim 60 and is allowable for the reasons claim 60 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 61 further recites sensor means for (i) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the one side of the card entry/exit slot, and (ii) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the opposite side of the card entry/exit slot. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the

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structure recited in claim 61 in combination with the structure recited in claim 60. Thus, claim 61 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 62 recites a method of operating a motorized card reader to remove a non-card obstruction from a throat portion of the reader. The method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion of the card reader to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion of the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion while maintaining the non-card obstruction within the recessed area so that a card can be inserted into the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a method of operating a motorized card reader to remove a non-card obstruction from a throat portion of the reader, wherein the method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion of the card reader to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion of the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion while maintaining the non-card obstruction within the recessed area so that a card can be inserted into the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction. Thus, claim 62 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 63 recites the step of "moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion, beneath a card protruding through the throat portion, to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side of the throat portion".

Claim 63 further recites "catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion on the sweeping arm". As mentioned above with regard to claim 54, neither Ohwa or Imai, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests "a recessed area defined by a hook portion on the sweeping arm".

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Finally, claim 63 recites the step of "dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion to allow the protruding card to be transported through the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction". Neither Ohwa or Imai, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests dragging a non-card obstruction caught in a recessed area".

As none of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the above steps, claim 63 patentably distinguishes over the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 64 recites a motorized card reader module comprising means defining a throat portion for receiving cards, means defining a housing portion for containing a card read head, a shutter arm member movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion, and a sweeping arm member including surface means defining a predefined recessed surface for engaging a non-card obstruction in the throat portion to drag the non-card obstruction from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion as the sweeping arm member moves from the one side of the throat portion to the opposite side of the throat portion.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a motorized card reader module comprising a sweeping arm member including surface means defining a predefined recessed surface for engaging a non-card obstruction in the throat portion to drag the non-card obstruction from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion as the sweeping arm member moves from the one side of the throat portion to the opposite side of the throat portion. Thus, claim 64 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 65 depends from claim 64 and is allowable for the reasons claim 64 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 65 further recites that the predefined recessed surface comprises a substantially J-shaped surface for catching the non-card obstruction in the throat portion when the non-card obstruction is engaged. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in

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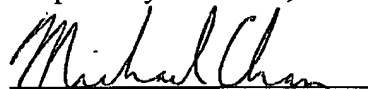
claim 65 in combination with the structure recited in claim 64. Thus, claim 65 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 66 depends from claim 65 and is allowable for the reasons claim 65 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 66 further recites that the substantially J-shaped surface includes means defining a blade portion for cutting the non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm member moves from the one side of the throat portion to the opposite side of the throat portion. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 66 in combination with the structure recited in claim 65. Thus, claim 66 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

The Office Action states that claims 55-58 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 55-58 are canceled and new claims 67-70 are added in their place. It is believed that each of claims 67-70 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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